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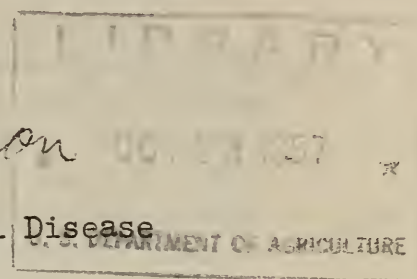
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
Animal Disease Eradication Division
Washington-25, D. C.

May 13, 1957

ADE DIVISION MEMORANDUM NO. 501.14

To : All AIQ and ADE Division Stations
From : R. J. Anderson, Director *R. J. Anderson*
Subject: Investigation of Suspected Emergency Animal Disease Outbreaks



1. Previous Letters Superseded:

This memorandum supersedes Inspection and Quarantine Letter 50-15, dated August 10, 1950, with attachments 1, 2, and 3 thereto, and Inspection and Quarantine Letter 50-16, dated August 10, 1950.

2. Purpose

Responsibility for investigations of suspected emergency disease outbreaks has been assigned to the ADE Division. The ever-present threat of foreign animal diseases to the livestock industry and the general welfare of the United States has long been of vital concern to the Department. Conclusive evidence of the Department's vigilance is seen in the success attained in the handling of serious outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and other foreign animal diseases, and also in the defensive measures which have been taken to prevent re-entry of such diseases into the country. Circular letters of instruction have been issued from time to time to assist field stations in setting up measures to handle suspected outbreaks of vesicular diseases. Since the scope of the emergency disease eradication organization is specifically broadened to include foreign animal diseases, it appears advisable to consolidate the information contained in the superseded letters and to establish a set of instructions to cover all emergency diseases.

3. Cooperation With State Livestock Sanitary Authorities:

It is imperative that a specific operational understanding exist between the Agricultural Research Service at the field level and the State livestock sanitary officials. A completely cooperative effort is necessary so that suspected cases of emergency-type diseases may be promptly diagnosed and primary quarantine measures, if necessary, established without delay. The authority for placing the immediate quarantine rests with the respective States.

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4. Prompt Reporting Emphasized:

Prompt reporting of any suspected foreign animal disease by the practicing veterinarian to his respective State or ARS area veterinarian is absolutely necessary. In case it is not possible to make contact with the area veterinarian, immediate contact with the State veterinarian or the Federal veterinarian in charge should be made. Each practicing veterinarian should be informed currently of name, address, and telephone number of the State or Federal area veterinarian assigned to the area in which he is located. The area veterinarian will notify the ARS veterinarian in charge or the State livestock sanitary official of the suspected case by telephone immediately if the circumstances of the report deem it advisable.

5. Initial Investigation - Federal ARS and State Veterinarians:

A. When a suspected case of a foreign or other emergency animal disease is reported, the Federal and State veterinarians in charge will jointly conduct or have conducted by their representatives a prompt field investigation. If, in their judgment, the condition found is clearly not in the nature of an emergency animal disease, a specially trained diagnostician need not be called. However, a full written report of the case should be furnished the Animal Disease Eradication Division. This report should include (1) the name and address of the owner, (2) the name and address of the reporting veterinarian, (3) the station area number, (4) the location of the premises and species and number of animals or poultry on the premises, (5) the species and number of animals or poultry affected, and (6) a description of the symptoms, including mention of losses, if any, and conclusions reached as to the cause and the nature of the condition.

B. When investigation indicates that a condition is of an emergency disease nature, and the Federal and the State veterinarians in charge cannot definitely eliminate the possibility of such a disease being in the emergency disease category, the nearest specially trained diagnostician (from the standpoint of travel time) should be promptly called by telephone for assistance. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all specially trained diagnosticians are listed in the ARS Working Reference of Livestock Regulatory Establishments.

(Keep Current). The diagnostician should be contacted in the most expeditious manner possible, either through his field station or directly. At the time the diagnostician is contacted, the veterinarian in charge of the field station should also communicate with the ADE Division in Washington, D. C., by telephone and give the Washington representative the history, symptoms, and circumstances leading to the action he has taken, the name of the diagnostician on whom he has called for assistance, and the quarantine measures which have been initiated by the State. Attachment #1,

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"Check List for Handling Outbreaks of Foreign Animal Diseases", should be used as a guide for procedures from this point of investigation. The diagnostician will inform the ADE Division in Washington directly by wire that he is proceeding to the scene of investigation. Reports and conversations over public communication systems, such as telephone, telegraph, etc., should refer to suspicious cases of this nature as vesicular condition or exotic condition, as the case may be. Until a diagnosis is arrived at eliminating the possibility of a vesicular or other emergency foreign animal or poultry disease, the necessary restrictions upon movements to or from the premises involved should be maintained by the appropriate State official. A detailed written report of the case should be sent to Washington, to the Federal veterinarian in charge, and to the State veterinarian when the investigation is completed.

C. In case the initial investigation discloses a suspected exotic disease of poultry or a non-vesicular exotic condition affecting other animals, the ADE Division in Washington should be immediately informed by telephone.

Through direct consultation of State and ADE Division officials in Washington a determination will be made according to the circumstances as to (1) the assignment of a specialist to the case or (2) the sending of proper sample material to a designated laboratory for aid in diagnosis.

Subsequent steps in diagnosis and handling of the condition will be determined at each stage by direct consultation of State and ADE Division officials.

The ADE Division will be responsible for obtaining the services of specialists as may be needed. This is in addition to the services of the ADE specially trained diagnosticians who will be called by the field station.

6. Procurement and Disposal of Test Animals:

A. In the event it is necessary to make animal inoculations for a differential diagnosis, such inoculations should, in each instance, be made on the same premises where the disease is found, rather than to set up a possible new center of infection. It is important that animals susceptible to the diseases with which we are concerned be selected. The species of animals for the test should include two each of the species required in the test. Any deviation in the number and species of animals used must have the approval of the Director's office. The test animals should be

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brought from an area which is a considerable distance (about 100 miles depending on history of disease conditions at source) from that where the disease exists.

B. The policy outlined for procurement and disposal of test animals is as follows: Arrangements for obtaining test animals through purchase by the State should be made prior to the arrival of the special diagnostician at the scene of investigation. It is preferable that the State officials arrange for the procurement of test animals, since in many instances State officials are in a position to handle matters of this kind in a more informal manner than the Federal Government. If it is not possible for the State to procure the test animals, the following procedures should be observed: Purchase of test animals will be governed by Administrative Memorandum No. 210.5. It is preferred that the employee making arrangements for purchase of the animals have the seller execute a Standard Form 44 for payment. When the seller demands cash for the animals, a signed receipt should be secured if at all possible and claim made for reimbursement on the employee's travel voucher in accordance with the Standardized Government Travel Regulations.

Delegation of sales authority for disposal of non-infected test animals should be obtained from the appropriate Regional Business Office in accordance with Paragraph IV of Temporary Circular No. 56-57 dated May 11, 1956.

7. When Specimen Samples May Be Sent to ADE Division:

If circumstances deem it advisable, this Division on receiving reports from the veterinarian in charge of the field station and the diagnostician may desire to have samples of harvested material or specimen samples forwarded to the Division laboratory. HOWEVER, IN NO INSTANCE SHOULD SPECIMEN MATERIAL FROM CASES OF THIS NATURE BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIVISION OR ANY OTHER PLACE UNTIL REQUESTED BY THE WASHINGTON OFFICE. Specially designed and approved security containers should be used for submitting any material of this nature. The Director of the Division should be notified by wire of (1) the airline used to ship specimens, (2) the waybill number, (3) the flight number, (4) the expected time of arrival, and (5) the purpose of submitting the sample. The package should be marked "hold for pick-up".

8. ADE Division to Be Kept Informed of Developments:

The Division should be kept fully informed by telephone day by day as the diagnostic work progresses using the attached check list to expedite reporting. When a definite conclusion has been reached, the Division should be informed of the results immediately by telephone.

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9. Action Pending Results of Diagnostic Test:

Where the condition is highly suspicious of being a disease of the emergency category, the State-Federal Emergency Disease Organization should be alerted. The State-Federal livestock sanitary officials should contact the Director of this Division relative to placing Items 6, 7, 8, and 9 on the check list into immediate operation by the Organization's existing facilities because the time involved for completion of the tests may contribute toward the spread of the disease.

10. Inspection Kits - Protective Clothing - Disinfection:

All field stations should have sufficient supplies and equipment for inspectors, as outlined on page 12 of "Instructions for Employees Engaged in Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease", and also such emergency kits necessary to conduct investigations of other foreign animal diseases. Veterinarians in charge of investigations in the field are authorized to dispense with the use of rubber coats and trousers during hot weather in conducting investigations and to substitute light-weight cotton coveralls. The cotton coveralls must be disinfected by soaking in the recommended disinfectant, outlined in "Foreign Animal Diseases - Their Prevention, Diagnosis and Control," under Appendix 1, Table A, at the time of leaving the premises when an emergency-type disease is suspected. This disinfectant table may be followed for both vesicular and non-vesicular diseases. The use of rubber hats, boots, and gloves with proper scrubbing and disinfection after use is mandatory during these investigations. The booklet, "Instructions for Employees Engaged in Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease," should be reviewed carefully by all members of your force.

11. Responsibilities of ADE Veterinarians in Charge of Various Lines of Work

It is expected that most of these field investigations will be carried out through the offices of the veterinarians in charge of ADE field activities. When suspicious cases occur at public stockyards or in virus-serum establishments, or meat inspection establishments, the same general procedures will apply as heretofore outlined. The veterinarian in charge of the yard or establishment should immediately notify the veterinarian in charge of ADE activities, who should notify the State livestock sanitary official, and the subsequent investigation will be the responsibility of the ADE veterinarian in charge of field activities. Veterinary inspectors in charge of Division activities at these yards and establishments should work closely with State livestock sanitary officials and Division veterinarians in charge of field activities and provide any assistance possible.

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12. Reporting Forms IQ 2-8

Samples of forms IQ 2-8 designed to apply to outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have been supplied each station previously. Sample copies should be kept available in each office so that supplies can be ordered immediately if the need arises, and those in administrative positions should examine the forms to gain familiarity with them.

13. Availability of Equipment and Supplies - Maintain Lists:

Veterinarians in charge of the Emergency Disease Eradication Organization should maintain up-to-date lists of persons or firms in various areas of their respective States who may be called on to furnish, on short notice, by contract or otherwise, equipment and supplies. Supplies that might be requested are digging equipment, disinfecting equipment, such as power spray units with supply tanks, and small spray units; also, disinfecting supplies, such as soda ash, lye, and cresol, and protective clothing. These lists should be compiled in cooperation with the State officials and copies kept current on a six-month basis in each of the offices. An individual on your staff should be assigned this responsibility. Additional copies of the lists should be supplied the members of the Emergency Disease Eradication Organization who may be concerned with this responsibility. These lists will be reviewed from time to time when a representative from the Washington office visits the field stations.

14. Cooperative Planning with State Officials - State Laws:

Veterinarians in charge of ADE field stations should continue to review with the appropriate State livestock sanitary officials the plans for immediate cooperative action in the event of an outbreak of an emergency foreign animal disease in the United States which may be dangerous to the livestock or poultry industry of this country. It should be ascertained what action the State officials will be able to take within the scope of existing authority. If authority in respect to quarantines within the State, destruction of animals, etc., and the availability of funds for the conduct of emergency operations and payment of indemnities does not exist at this time, steps should be taken without delay to obtain this authority and the Division should be notified. In this regard attention is called to CFR, Title 9, Chapter I, Part 53.

Attachment #1 -- "Check List for Handling Outbreaks of Foreign Livestock Diseases"

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CHECK LIST FOR HANDLING
OUTBREAKS OF SUSPECTED EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK DISEASES

1. Hold order on premises by veterinarian investigating condition and quarantine by responsible State official
2. Special diagnostician sent to conduct differential diagnostic tests
3. Test animals inoculated
4. Part of inoculum sent to Plum Island by courier for confirmation after so instructed by ADE Division, Washington, D. C.
5. Notify Plum Island arrival time of courier
6. Action pending results of diagnostic test:
 - A. Inspection of herds in surrounding area
 - B. Arrange for veterinary inspectors
 - C. Arrange for quarantine personnel
 - D. Arrange for appraisers
 - E. Arrange for disinfectant supplies and equipment
 - F. Guns and ammunition
 - G. Excavation equipment
 - H. Define area to be quarantined
7. State police or other law enforcement personnel for quarantine enforcement
8. Obtain herd or flock history: Check the livestock, people, feed, and vehicle movements into and from the premises for 3 weeks prior to the appearance of the disease; also check sale of milk and other animal products.
9. Notify other States involved in movements to and from the suspicious premises
10. Test is positive
 - A. Place State-Federal emergency disease eradication plan into action
 - B. Quarantine area (State and Federal)
 - C. Install quarantine stations supported by State enforcement officers
 - D. Prepare trench, appraise, destroy, and slash carcass, and bury infected animals
 - E. Clean and disinfect premises
 - F. Continue daily inspections in quarantine area
 - G. Place test animals on premises
 - H. Inspect test animals daily
 - I. Conduct serological test on test animals at end of test period
 - J. Release quarantine and permit gradual restocking

